

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 18-19 remain in this application. Claim 18 is amended. Claims 1-17 and 20-28 are cancelled.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Patent Office rejected Claims 1-17 and 20-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Humlicek (U.S. Patent No. 6,591,264). Applicants respectfully traverse. However, Claims 1-17 and 20-28 have been cancelled. It is respectfully requested that the Patent Office withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection of Claims 1-17 and 20-28.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Patent Office has acknowledged that Claims 18-19 are objected to while containing allowable subject matter. The Patent Office stated that the subject matter is indicated allowable in view of the claim as a whole, including any limitations from an interceding parent claim. Claim 18 is amended to include limitations from all interceding parent claims. Claim 19 depends on Claim 18. Claims 18-19 remain in this application. Applicants wish to seek expeditious issuance of a patent containing claims directed to subject matter found allowable by the Patent Office.

Further, Applicants do not acquiesce to the rejections of claims 1-17 and 20-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and reserves the right to present claims drawn to the same or similar subject matter for consideration in a continuing application. Additionally, Applicants reserve the right to withdraw the present amendment and traverse the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 should the Patent Office assert new grounds for rejection of the claims presently indicated as being allowable.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request a timely Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

LSI Logic, Inc.,

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By: 

Sunah K. Lee
Reg. No. 53,198

Sunah K. Lee
SUITER – WEST PC LLO
14301 FNB Parkway, Suite 220
Omaha, NE 68154
(402) 496-0300 telephone
(402) 496-0333 facsimile